

KEY MESSAGES ABOUT RADON IN ALABAMA

Alabama Radon Education Program

1. Radon health risks are elevated in 15 Alabama counties.
 - Radon is one of the most serious environmental health risks in the nation. Nearly one in 15 homes in the U.S. is estimated to have elevated radon levels.
 - **Over one-third of the homes tested in Colbert County have elevated radon levels (35%),** followed by **Madison (31%), Cleburne (31%), Lauderdale (25%), Coosa (22%), Franklin (20%), Jackson (18%), Calhoun (17%), Lawrence (13%), Talladega (13%), Clay (13%), Morgan (13%), Limestone (12%), Shelby (11%), and Jefferson (10%).**
2. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer nationwide.
 - Second only to tobacco smoking
 - Radon is a class “A” carcinogen based on human data.
 - According to the Surgeon General, former and current smokers are at especially high risk to radon exposure (up to 10 times greater than for non-smokers).
 - Radon is the No. 1 cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.
 - The most effective way to treat lung cancer is to prevent it.
3. Radon levels are easy to check.
 - Test your home for radon.
 - The only way to determine your risk to radon is to test.
 - Do-it-yourself kits cost as little as \$5.00 (for short-term) and \$15 (for long-term), available at one of the County Extension offices listed on the back.
 - Some homes won’t have problems with radon — but you must test to know for sure.
 - Use test kits from certified testing labs.
 - Test kits purchased at your local county agent’s office are certified and approved by health officials.
4. Any home with problems can be fixed.
 - Fixing the problem requires home repairs.
 - The cost of repairs averages \$1,800 nationwide.
 - Most repairs can be done in one day.
 - New homes can be built radon-resistant at a minimal cost, usually less than \$500.
5. Individual action is the key.
 - It’s within your control to protect your family.
 - Test your home now — buy a test kit from your local county agent’s office.
 - Contact the Alabama Radon Hotline at 1-800-582-1866.
 - Contact a County Extension office listed on the back of this page.
 - Visit the Radon in Alabama Web site at www.aces.edu/radon. You can purchase a test kits online and/or print out a discount coupon for test kits.
6. What to do if your home has a radon problem:
 - Don’t panic — all homes in Alabama have been successfully fixed when needed.

- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health at 1-800-582-1866.
- Use a certified radon contractor to fix your home. See the certified mitigator list on the Radon in Alabama Web site, www.aces.edu/radon or contact a County Extension office listed below.

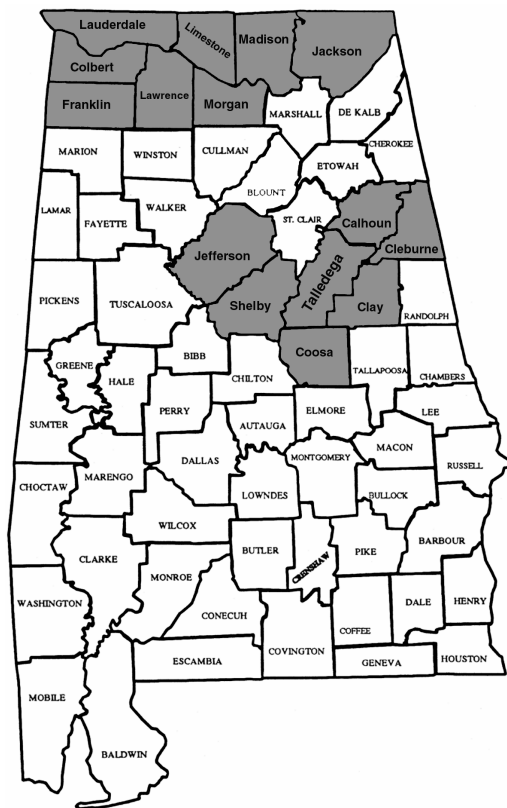
7. When buying a home:

- Make sure the home is tested for radon before you purchase the home.
- If you are building a new home, ask your builder to incorporate radon-resistant features before construction begins. After your home is built, test the home for radon.

8. When selling a home:

- Test your home prior to selling. If the test result is ≥ 4.0 pCi/l, fix your home before you put it on the market.
- A radon problem does not have to complicate a home sale.
 - Use a low level reading as a positive selling point.
 - Use a mitigated home as a positive selling point.

For more information, contact the nearest Extension office:



Clay County	(256) 354-5976
Calhoun and Cleburne counties	(256) 386-8570
Colbert County	(256) 386-8572
Franklin County	(256) 332-8880
Jackson County	(256) 574-2143
Jefferson County	(205) 325-5342
	or (205) 879-6964
Lauderdale County	(256) 766-4846
Lawrence County	(256) 974-2464
Limestone County	(256) 232-5510
Madison County	(256) 532-1578
Morgan County	(256) 773-2549
Shelby County	(205) 669-6763
Talladega County	(256) 362-6187

All other counties, call Auburn University
 (334) 844-3686
 or Pat Smith (256) 766-4846
 or (256) 710-7702

Alabama Department of Public Health
 Dr. Jim McNees 1-800-582-1866

Radon in Alabama Web site:

www.aces.edu/radon



Your Experts for Life

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and other related acts, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.